

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3666

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 2753

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS: RP

SUBJECT: VISAS: FRAUD: MISUE OF AND MISREPRESENTATION OF
CANADIAN IMMIGRANT STATUS IN CONNECTION WITH C-1 AND B-2
APPLICATIONS

1. SINCE SUSPENSION OF TRWOV PRIVILEGE EMBASSY HAS EXPERIENCED
INCREASE IN C-1 AND B-2 APPLICATIONS BY FILIPINOS BEARING
CANADIAN IMMIGRANT VISAS AND WHO EITHER DESIRE TO TRANSIT US
ENROUTE TO CANADA OR WISH VISIT RELATIVES IN US FOR 30 DAYS
OR LESS ENROUTE CANADA. WITH SUSPENSION OF TRWOV EMBASSY HAS
GIVEN LIBERAL TREATMENT TO SUCH APPLICATIONS AND HAS BEEN
ISSUING B-2 OR C-1 VISAS AS APPROPRIATE. ON MARCH 8
ANONYMOUS SOURCE WARNED BOTH EMBOFF AND CHIEF OF LOCAL
CANADIAN IMMIGRATION OFFICE THAT LARGE NUMBERS OF FILIPINOS
HAVE OBTAINED OR WILL OBTAIN "FAKE" CANADIAN IMMIGRANT
VISAS IN EFFORT TO MISREPRESENT THEMSELVES AS CANADIAN
IMMIGRANTS AND THEREBY TO RECEIVE MORE LENIENT CONSIDERATION
OF THEIR APPLICATIONS FOR US C-1 OR B-2 VISAS.

2. ADDITIONAL FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED ARE: A) IMPOSITION
OF MARTIAL LAW AND TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS BY HOST GOVERNMENT HAS
VIRTUALLY CLOSED TRADITIONAL TOURIST ROUTE AS MEANS OF
GAINING ILLICIT ENTRY AND EVENTUAL RESIDENCE IN US BY MANY
FILIPINOS, THEREBY INCREASING PROBABILITY THAT BOTH LEGITIMATE AND
COUNTERFEIT CANADIAN IMMIGRANT VISAS ARE BEING USED AS TOOL TO
GAIN ENTRY INTO US; B) BOTH CANADIAN IMMIGRANT AND NONIMMIGRANT
VISAS HAVE BEEN COUNTERFEITED IN PAST, AND FACT THAT CANADIAN
IV IS NO LONGER STAMPED IN PASSPORT BUT INSTEAD IS AFFIXED TO
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A LOOSE SEPARATE SNAP- OUT CANADIAN FORM MAKES IT RELATIVELY EASY TO DISPOSE OF EVIDENCE OF CANADIAN IMMIGRANT STATUS, EITHER LEGITIMATE OR COUNTERFEIT, BEFORE OR AFTER ENTRY INTO US EFFECTED; C) EMBASSY NOW TAKING LESS LIBERAL STAND ON FILIPINOS EMIGRATING TO CANADA WHO DESIRE B-2 FOR VISIT IN US PRIOR TO ENTERING CANADA, BUT SUCH ACTION LIKELY TO CAUSE APPLICANTS TO SIMPLY HENCE-FORTH REQUEST C-1 UNDER GUISE OF IMMEDIATE TRANSIT STATUS. OBVIOUSLY NEITHER TYPE OF VISA PREVENTS ALIEN FROM SIMPLY DISAPPEARING AFTER GAINING ENTRY INTO US; D) EMBASSY CAN TAKE STIFFER STAND ON ANY NIV APPLICATION BY FILIPINOS EMIGRATING TO CANADA, THEREBY CAUSING MORE FILIPINOS TO TRAVEL TO CANADA WITHOUT TRANSITING US (CANADIAN AND JAPANESE CARRIERS PROVIDE SUCH ROUTING), BUT CLOSING THE US VISA DOOR TO SUCH APPLICANTS WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY CAUSE A MAJOR AMERICAN CARRIER(PANAM) AND THE HOST COUNTRY CARRIER (PAL) TO LOSE SOME TRAFFIC AND TO COMPLAIN THAT WE ARE CAUSE OF THEIR LOSING TRAFFIC; E) MAJORITY OF FILIPINO IMMIGRANTS TO CANADA ARE IN THE AGE GROUP AND HAVE OCCUPATIONAL AND ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS TYPICAL OF NONIMMIGRANT APPLICANTS MOST FREQUENTLY REFUSED VISAS AT THIS POST, IF THEY WERE APPLYING WITHOUT CANADIAN VISAS AND WE THEREFORE CONSIDER FILIPINO IMMIGRANTS TO CANADA AS HIGH RISK ALIENS IN TERMS OF VIOLATING US IMMIGRATION LAW.

3. EMBASSY' S CONSULAR SECTION HAS CONSULTED WITH CANADIAN COUNTER-PARTS ON PROBLEM, AND BOTH AGREE THAT LOCAL PICTURE IS ONE OF VISA FIXERS CONSTANTLY PROBING FOR NEW AVENUES OF ENTRY INTO US FOR FILIPINOS, REGARDLESS OF MONETARY COST OR ABUSE OF CANADIAN AND US LAW. CANADIAN IMMIGRANT VISAS, WHETHER REAL OR COUNTERFEIT, MAY BE NEWEST AVENUE TO US, AND EMBASSY DESIRES PRECLUDE ANY WHOLESAL ABUSE IN THIS AREA. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT' S OPINIONS ON SUBJECT AFTER CONSULTATION WITH INS.
BYROADE

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